

Club of Montpellier, to offer the shirts with the name of your city to your school's soccer team. M. Mayor Hollar do not hesitate to tell me if you agree with this gift, in that way we will write together a great story.

Moreover, I also hope to meet you one day, I will be very pleased to welcome you in Montpellier.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIPPE SAUREL,
Mayor of Montpellier, President of
Montpellier Méditerranée Métropolis.

(At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HURRICANE MARIA RECOVERY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, and I am on the island today with FEMA Administrator Brock Long, Governor Ricardo Rossello, Resident Commissioner JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ, and other officials to assess the damage and assistance that is needed to help residents and make the island whole. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to ensure our government responds to this hurricane the same as it would anywhere else in the country. We must stand with our brothers and sisters, and give Puerto Rico the resources it needs to rebuild and become stronger than ever before.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 203 on the nomination of William Emanuel to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".●

CONFIRMATION OF NOEL J. FRANCISCO

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I could not support Noel Francisco's confirmation to serve as the 47th Solicitor General of the United States. I do not believe Mr. Francisco can serve as a check on this administration and this President.

Created in 1870 and colloquially referred to as the "10th Supreme Court Justice," the Solicitor General represents the U.S. Government before the Supreme Court. The Solicitor General culls through thousands of cases a year and selects which cases the Department of Justice will appeal. Although the Solicitor General is the third highest ranked office in the Department of Justice, it is the Solicitor General alone who selects and approves every appeal. This heavy responsibility requires that the Solicitor General use sound legal judgment and resist pressure from and maintain independence from the President and Cabinet-level members.

History contains examples of Solicitors General who deferred to the Presi-

dent while constructing legal strategy and Presidents who were directly involved with shaping legal arguments. President Eisenhower personally wrote handwritten notes on his Solicitor General's briefs before they were submitted to the Supreme Court. President Eisenhower's notes softened the Solicitor General's tone regarding the expediency of desegregation after the seminal Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

At this unique time in history, we cannot have a Solicitor General who will serve as a rubberstamp for this administration's policies. President Trump has shown a disregard and contempt for not only the rule of law but also for our constitutional separation of powers.

Frederick William Lehmann, Solicitor General during the Taft administration said that "the Government wins its point when justice is done in its courts." As acting-Solicitor General, Mr. Francisco defended the President's travel ban before the Ninth Circuit, in which he argued that Presidential authority regarding immigration is "largely immune from judicial control."

Mr. Francisco's lead in defending President Trump's Executive orders are deeply concerning. We need a Solicitor General that can say no to the President and resist positions advocated by the administration's hardliners when they fall outside of defensible legal boundaries. I do not believe Mr. Francisco can act as an independent check, and I could not support his confirmation.

REMEMBERING PETE DOMENICI

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would like to take this time today to honor the life of one of our former colleagues and my friend, Pete Domenici of New Mexico. Pete had a long and memorable career and left an important legacy on this institution, of which his family can be proud.

Pete dedicated the majority of his life to advocating for the betterment of his home State and this Nation he loved so much. He started his career in public service after his election to the Albuquerque City Commission in 1968. He then took up the challenge to serve the people of his home State in Congress and was elected to the Senate in 1972. Pete served the people of New Mexico for 36 years, becoming the longest serving Senator in New Mexico history in the process.

During his career, Pete was chairman of the Senate Energy Committee and twice the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. His adherence to fiscal responsibility eventually led to the passing of a balanced budget during his chairmanship.

He accomplished a great deal over the years in the Senate. His heartfelt concern and his dedication to his principles guided his work on every issue that came before him. Through it all,

his core values served as his inner compass and kept him in tune with the thinking of the people of New Mexico, who elected him to the Senate six separate times. I was fortunate enough to serve with Pete and, through our 12 shared years in the Senate together, came to admire his commitment to serving our great Nation.

During my time as ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions—HELP—Committee, I was able to see up close Pete and his wife Nancy's lifelong commitment to mental health. Through his hard work and determination, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 was enacted into law.

His pragmatism was one of the many qualities Pete displayed everyday while working to improve the lives of all Americans. Pete's ability to form meaningful relationships with every person he met was why he was so trusted by Members on both sides of the aisle.

Among Pete's reasons to not seek a seventh term was his diagnosis of frontotemporal lobar degeneration. Through his fight against his debilitating disease, he was an inspiration to many. He did not let this slow him down. After his retirement from the Senate, Pete continued to work tirelessly for the advancement of the causes he cared so dearly about.

We now celebrate the life of Pete Domenici. Pete was many things in his life: a college baseball player, a Senator, an author, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and even a great-grandfather.

Diana joins in sending our heartfelt sympathy to the Domenici family. Pete has been a role model to so many for so many years, including me. He loved life, and he loved sharing it with his family and friends. Those who knew him will always remember his dedication, his selflessness, and his ability to solve problems. He will never be forgotten. God bless.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Connecticut State Medical Society, as they celebrate 225 years of dedicated service to the medical profession and to the improvement of health services for Connecticut residents.

Founded in 1792, the Connecticut State Medical Society consists of more than 7,000 physicians who provide healthcare across the State. The society enhances the profession of medicine by providing educational courses and innovative learning experiences to physicians, which helps improve the overall quality of healthcare services and safeguards patient health.